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Attorney Docket No.: SEL 220

7-30-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
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Tsutsui et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/696,619)
)
Filed: October 25, 2000)
)
For: Self Light-Emitting Device Using)
An Inert Gas)
)
Examiner: G. Colon)
)
Art Unit: 2879)

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RESPONSE B (AFTER FINAL)

Applicants have the following response to the Final Rejection of March 14, 2003, a one month extension of time being separately submitted. Applicants will address below the Examiner's remaining rejections.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Antoniadis (a new reference) in view of Onitsuka. The Examiner also rejects Claims 5-12 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Shibata et al. in view of Onitsuka et al., further in view of Codama and Arai (both new references). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are deficient as the cited references cannot be combined to achieve the claimed invention. More specifically, independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a self light-emitting device comprising an opaque electrode over a substrate; an EL layer over the opaque electrode; a transparent electrode over the EL layer; and an inert gas filled in a space between the transparent electrode and a cover material, wherein each of said EL layer and said transparent electrode has a film thickness (d) in which there is no occurrence of a guided light.

While Onitsuka shows an inert gas filled in space between an electrode (D15) and a cover material (D20 or D50), Onitsuka discloses a configuration wherein a light emission emanates on a substrate side (i.e. a transparent electrode on a substrate, an EL layer over the transparent electrode, and an opaque electrode over the EL layer). This is not only different than the claimed invention but also different than the structure discloses in Antoniadis, Shibata and Codama (all which have a top emission, i.e. an opaque electrode over a substrate, an EL layer over the opaque electrode and a transparent electrode over the EL layer). Hence, it is not proper to combine Onitsuka with these other references, and even if arguably combined, so that the light emission direction of Antoniadis becomes the same as Onitsuka, the order of the opaque electrode, the EL layer, and the transparent electrode do not coincide between the two references.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the paragraph at col. 6, ln. 61 et seq. of Onitsuka does not provide the sufficient teaching to combine the reference as there is no disclosure or suggestion in the reference of top emission.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, the device of independent Claim 1 of the present application is clearly not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Hence, claim 1 and those claims dependent thereof are patentable over the cited references. The other claims are also patentable for similar reasons. Therefore, it is requested that these rejections now be withdrawn.


Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in a condition for allowance, and accordingly, it is requested that it now be allowed.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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